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DECEMBER 1990

Volume 25 Number 12 ISSN: 0197-3088 Price Two Dollars

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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

December, 1990 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by March 1, 1991, their membership will become effective on that date.

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DONATIONS REPORT

We wish to acknowledge the following donations received since the last report:

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I. Acknowledgement is made below to those who have donated material to the NI Library:

John L. Pieratt

KB70.PieJ:X990:ICM
PIERATT, JOHN L.
Indo-China, Monnaies de L'Indo-Chine Francaise.
Private printing 1990, ca 80pp, illus.

II. In addition to the above we would also like to thank Fred Drost and David Briggs for other numismatic material donated to the Library.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian
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"BOMBA"

Ferdinand II, King of Naples and Sicily from 1830-1859, like other European monarchs of his time, felt the growing threat of nationalism and revolution. During a revolt in Palermo in 1848, Ferdinand reacted by ordering a naval bombardment of the city. Accordingly, the Sicilians



nicknamed Ferdinand "Bomba" (The Bomb). Perhaps in an act of defiance or desecration, Piastres (silver crowns) of the king were counter-stamped "BOMBA", usually across the portrait of Ferdinand.

(Submitted by Samuel Hughes)

NAPOLEONIC MEDALS: THE PRUSSIAN CAMPAIGN

David Block, Gainesville, Florida, NI #894

(Ninth of a series which started in October, 1985)

The year 1806 found France at peace with every country except the United Kingdom. Prussia in particular had signed the Treaty of Basel with revolutionary France in 1796 and so had been at peace with France for ten years. Goldsmith, in his spiteful *Secret history of the cabinet of France*, alleges that peace was bought by a secret subsidy from France to Prussia, but no evidence for that exists. Be that as it may, disturbed by Napoleon's first Austrian campaign, King Friedrich of Prussia had mobilized his troops and was preparing to act as an armed mediator when the Austrians surrendered.

To a large extent the plans of Napoleon for France were conceived by earlier French political thinkers. A second invasion of England, for example, had been an off-again on-again project ever since 1066 A.D. It is quite possible that many of young Bonaparte's ideas were shaped by what he read about these plans in *Le Moniteur*. The issue of 25 August 1796 carried an unsigned article titled "Diplomatie" in which the author foresaw a time when a united Germany would attempt to recover the territories on the left bank of the Rhine which French revolutionary troops had occupied. He suggested forming the small German states on the right bank into a new German league under the auspices of France, making the Weser River Prussia's western boundary, eliminating the ecclesiastical powers, increasing the number of free cities.

In a letter of 2 October 1805 to Talleyrand (*Corres.* 9307), Napoleon intends his German confederation to include Bavaria, Darmstadt, Wurtemberg, and Baden. By 26 January 1806 (*Corres.* 9716) he talks of a new German state which might include Hamburg, the Duchies of Berg and of Cleves, Muenster, Hesse-Darmstadt, and all the princes of Swabia. Letters of 10 April and 31 May (*Corres.* 10071 and 10298) show the final form of the plan. The Articles of Confederation were published in *Le Moniteur* on 13 August 1806; Article XXXV was the heart:

"XXXV. There will be between the French Empire and the Confederate States of the Rhine, collectively and separately, an alliance which will make any continental war which one of the contracting parties has to fight immediately common to all the others."

The formation of the Confederation of the Rhine made King Friedrich realize that Prussia was in danger. The hawks in his court finally prevailed, and he issued an ultimatum to Napoleon: Get those French troops out of the Rhineland. Napoleon gleefully announced to the French people, "In accordance with the instructions of the Prussian king our troops have left the Rhineland. They are marching on Berlin."

BRAMSEN 534. THE CONFEDERATION OF THE RHINE (40mm)



Standard obverse by Droz. Reverse: A semicircle of warriors, their hands on a fasces. Exergue: CONFEDERATION OF THE RHINE, 1806. BRENET F. DENON D.

The Prussians maneuvered to cut the French supply lines, which they imagined ran east to France. Napoleon was actually running his supply lines to the south. He swung his right wing forward and threatened the Prussian supply lines. The Battles of Jena and Auerstadt crushed the Prussian armies before their Russian allies could come to their support. Although the main part of the Prussian army was defeated by Marshal Davoust at Auerstadt, Napoleon's medals celebrate his own smaller victory at Jena.

BRAMSEN 537. THE BATTLE OF JENA (1) (40mm)



Obverse: NEAPOLIO IMPERATOR REX. Standard bust by Andrieu. Reverse: BORUSSI DIDICERE NUPER. The emperor on a horse prancing right, hurling a thunderbolt at a falling enemy; beneath him corpses. Signed ANDRIEU F. Exergue: EXERCITU AD JENAM DELETO. XIV OCTOB. MDCCCVI.

The Latin inscriptions may be translated: NAPOLEON, EMPEROR, KING; THE PRUSSIAN JUST LEARNED A LESSON; THEIR ARMY WAS WIPED OUT AT JENA. Like Louis XIV, Napoleon had a committee of learned men to design medals and inscriptions for him. This is the only one of those ever produced; the designs for the others can be seen in the records left by the committee.

In addition to engraving the special die for this medal, Andrieu produced two obverse dies for the 40 mm. medals commemorating the Prussian campaign, with the inscription *NAPOLEON EMP. ET ROI*, Napoleon, Emperor (of the French) and King (of Italy).

BRAMSEN 538. THE BATTLE OF JENA (2) (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: The Emperor riding Jove's eagle, hurling a thunderbolt at a falling man below. Two men already lie dead amid rocks. Exergue: *BATTLE OF JENA, 1806. DENON D. GALLE F.*

Jupiter riding an eagle is a Roman motive, revived here in accordance with the classical spirit of so many of these medals.

BRAMSEN 539. THE BATTLE OF JENA (3) (41mm)



Obverse: *NAPOLEO GALL. IMP. REX GERM. RVTH. BORVSSICVS.* Diademed and laureate bust right, signed on the truncation *L.M.* In the field below, *MILAN, 1806.* Reverse: Saxony Liberated, the Prussians wiped out. Jupiter riding an eagle, holding a scepter and brandishing a thunderbolt.

The Latin inscription of the obverse concludes with honorifics indicating that Napoleon had defeated the Germans, The Russians, and the Prussians. The reverse is apparently Manfredini's interpretation of the theme dictated by Denon; a comparison with the previous medal indicates that the Milan mint was not as closely controlled as the one in Paris. Perhaps the Paris version is a better design.

BRAMSEN 546. ENTRY INTO BERLIN (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: THE BRANDENBURG GATE. The famous eastern entry into 18th century Berlin. Exergue: THE EMPEROR ENTERS BERLIN, 27 OCTOBER 1806. DENON Dt. X JALEY Ft.

Following the Battles at Jena and Auerstadt the Prussians fled in all directions, hotly pursued by the French. Berlin was abandoned to them and Napoleon entered in triumph. It was here that he issued the famous Berlin decree, banning British goods from his empire, declaring all products from British colonies subject to confiscation. (The Directorate had earlier banned the import of British goods, followed by the indignant official denials that the new robes for the legislative bodies were being made of British woolsens.)

BRAMSEN 548. CAPITULATION OF FOUR PRUSSIAN FORTRESSES (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: Four women wearing civic crowns drop keys while looking up at a sword-carrying man riding a thunderbolt-bearing eagle. Signed in the field, JEUFFROY F. DENON DIR. Exergue: CAPITULATION OF SPANDAU, STETTIN, MAGDEBURG, AND CUSTRIN, 1806.

Denon's artist (Chaudet) had problems with the sketch for this medal. Marx (*Les medailleurs modernes*) illustrates three preliminary sketches for this reverse, showing changes in the positions of the women, the size of the eagle, etc. I think that the design Denon finally chose still leaves much to be desired.

BRAMSEN 551. ALLIANCE WITH SAXONY (40mm)



Obverse: NAPOLEON EMPEROR, CHARLEMAGNE EMPEROR. Accolate heads right, that of Napoleon signed on the truncation, ANDRIEU F. In the field below, DENON DIR. 1806. Reverse: WITIKIND, KING OF SAXONY; FREDERICK AUGUSTUS, KING OF SAXONY. Signatures as on the obverse.

In one of those historical parallels so loved by Napoleon, his action in raising the present Elector of Saxony to the rank of king is compared to Charlemagne's recognition of Witikind a thousand years earlier. The action was designed to gain Saxon support for France, separating Saxony from Prussia. The portraits of Charles the Great and Witikind are, of course, imaginary. "On 11 December, 1806, the Elector of Saxony accepted the French alliance, entered the Confederation of the Rhine, and received the title of King." (Rose, *The life of Napoleon*, Vol. 2, p. 99).

BRAMSEN 549. THE OCCUPATION OF HAMBURG (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: OCCUPATION OF HAMBURG. A seated woman full front, a rudder in her right hand and a cornucopia in her left; behind, a ship. Exergue: 1806. DENON DIRECT. GEORGE F.

The free city of Hamburg was one of the principal ports through which British goods arrived on the continent, so it had to be occupied by the French to put a stop to that pernicious traffic. Napoleon gave his friend Bourrienne a chance to redeem himself by putting him in charge of affairs in Hamburg; Bourrienne repaid him by issuing licenses to smugglers and misappropriating funds. Disgraced a second time, Bourrienne got his revenge years later by publishing his imaginative memoirs. a mixture of truth and lies ghost written by a couple of

journalists which was rebutted by a book titled *Bourrienne and his deliberate errors*.

BRAMSEN 620. THE FRENCH EAGLES ON THE VISTULA (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: A nude river goddess despondently reclining on a rocky river bank and holding a ship's rudder, behind and above her a French eagle standard. Signed in the margin of the field at the left, DENON D.; above the exergual line on the left, BRENET F. Exergue: THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BEYOND THE VISTULA, 1807.

The drawing of the figure is quite poor, suggesting a Petty or Varga girl with her impossible anatomy. The date is a year off, as is shown by Napoleon's proclamation to the army, 2 December 1806 (*Corres.* 11352):

"Soldiers! It was a year ago today, at this very hour, that you were on the memorable field of Austerlitz; the Russian battalions, terror-stricken, fled in disorder or, surrounded, gave up their arms to their conquerors. The next day they spoke words of peace, but they were deceitful; when they had hardly escaped from the disasters of the Third Coalition, the result of a generosity which was perhaps culpable, they were plotting the Fourth. But the ally upon whom they based their principal hope no longer exists. Their strongholds, their capitals, their magazines, their arsenals, two hundred eighty standards, seven hundred battle pieces, five great fortresses are in our power. The Oder, the Warta, the deserts of Poland, the bad weather of the season have not been able to stop us for a moment. You have braved everything, surmounted everything; all fled at your approach. In vain the Russians have wanted to defend the capital of this ancient and illustrious Poland; the French eagle flies upon the Vistula."

Note: Six years later a brief note in the "Mercure de France" stated, "The Emperor left Saint Cloud on the 9th of May, crossed the Rhine on the 13th, the Elbe on the 29th, and the Vistula on the 6th of June." The Russian campaign was beginning. In 1806 Napoleon needed a Russian alliance, so he delayed crossing the Vistula for the present.

BRAMSEN 628. THE BATTLE OF EYLAU (40mm)

Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: TO AN ESTABLISHED VICTORY. A



heroic nude seated on a pile of battle spoils, a sword in his right hand and a Victory in his left. In the left field, DENON D.; beneath the trophies, BRENET. Exergue: BATTLE OF PRUSSIAN EYLAU, 7 FEBRUARY 1807.

The Battle of Eylau was another in which both sides lost, although both sides claimed the victory and issued medals to prove it. It was fought in a blizzard in mid-winter after both armies had settled down to wait for spring but had been awakened from their hibernation when Napoleon's Marshal Ney extended his men northward in an attempt against Koenigsberg (Kaliningrad), where the Prussian king had taken refuge. Bennigsen's Russians tried to break through the weakened French lines to relieve besieged Danzig (Gdansk), leading to the struggle for Eylau between two armies of seventy five thousand men. Casualties on each side amounted to twenty five thousand, counting dead, wounded, and stragglers.

Napoleon went all out to prove he had won the battle:

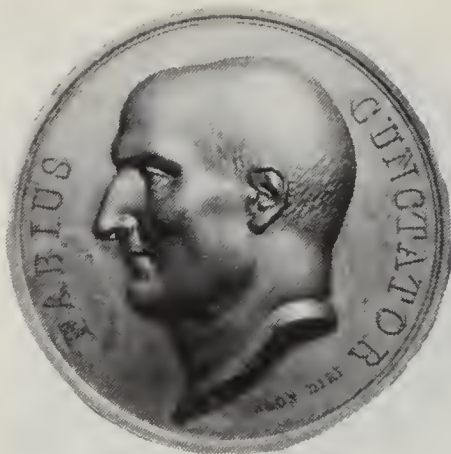
"Three plates giving a clear idea of the Battle of Eylau must be sent to the War Department in Paris. See to it that within three days these three plates are etched and spread through Paris. You can also order that a pamphlet be made up of the bulletins which describe that battle and the account of it by a French officer, with these three plates. You will send it to Milan, to Prince Eugene, who will have it translated into Italian, and to the king of Holland (Napoleon's brother Louis), who will have it translated into Dutch."

Corres. 12160, 25 March 1807

BRAMSEN 631. SOJOURN AT OSTERODE (40mm)

Obverse: NAPOLEON IN OSTERODE. Standard bust by Andrieu. Reverse: FABIUS CUNCTATOR. Bust left. In field below, DENON D.

After the Battle of Eylau both armies spent considerable time licking their wounds; Denon characterized this time by comparing Napoleon's inaction to that of the Roman dictator, Fabius the delayer (drawn by Houannin), who defeated Hannibal by using delaying tactics. But Napoleon was quite active at this period, negotiating with the Sultan of Turkey and the Shah of Persia, as well as shacking up with the



Bramsen 631 (Reverse)

wife of Count Walewska, by whom he later had a son. To Josephine, who knew what was going on and begged in vain to be allowed to come join him, he wrote, "You must allow me my fancies."

BRAMSEN 652. DANZIG DELIVERED (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: The robed, laureate Emperor places a civic crown on the head of a kneeling woman; behind her is a caduceus and behind him an akrostatolion. Signed in the field, ANDRIEU F. and DENON DIR. Exergue: LIBERTY RESTORED TO DANZIG, 1807.

The meaning of the reverse, drawn by Meynier, is clear. The snake winged staff of Mercury represents commerce here, although Mercury is also the patron god of thieves and the AMA. The akrostatolion is the ornament placed on the stem of an ancient Greek ship, thus symbolizes sea trade.

The capitulation of Danzig, which took place on May 24th, was announced in Paris by the firing of cannon on June 5th and a notice in *Le Moniteur* of that day. A couple of weeks later *Le Moniteur* published an article supposedly reprinted from the British press:

"The taking of Danzig, which had been doubted at first but which is unfortunately only too true, has brought new delays to our great expedition. Most of the ministers and generals lean toward an attack on Holland. Whatever the destination of this army may be, it will be commanded by Lord Cathcart,

famous for his numerous defeats in Brabant and Holland in the years 1794 and 94."

Le Moniteur, 17 June 1807

BRAMSEN 632. THE BATTLE OF FRIEDLAND (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: A standing nude warrior sheathes his sword. Corpses are stacked up behind him; on the right is an olive tree, on the left an extinguished torch, inverted and still smoking. Signed in the right field, GALLE F. Exergue: BATTLE OF FRIEDLAND, 14 JUNE 1807.

BRAMSEN 633. THE VICTORIES OF JUNE 14th (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: A winged victory inscribing a shield: 14 JUNE, MARINGO, FRIEDLAND. In the right field, a laurel branch. Exergue: BRENET F. DENON D.

Just as the Battle of Marengo ended the second Italian campaign, so the Battle of Friedland ended the Prussian campaign. Napoleon's General Lannes was pursuing the Russian army with a twenty five thousand man force; the Russians turned and crossed the River Alle to attack him. Lannes fought doggedly and kept the Russians engaged until Napoleon could bring up overpowering reinforcements. The Russians were trapped on the wrong side of the river and slaughtered. This strategic victory gave Napoleon the opportunity to settle affairs with Prussia and led to his alliance with Russia.

BRAMSEN 634. OCCUPATION OF THE THREE CAPITALS (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: BERLIN WARSAW KOENIGSBERG. Three standing women wearing civic crowns, each holding a key in her hand. Signed DENON DIR. GEORGE F. Exergue: CAMPAIGNS OF 1807 AND 1807.

The design of this reverse is related to that of Bramsen 548, above. Berlin was the capital of Friedrich as Elector of Brandenburg, Koenigsberg as King of Prussia, and Warsaw as ruler of the Prussian part of Poland.

BRAMSEN 635. CONQUEST OF SILESIA (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: Victory, seated left, writes on a shield. Peace, behind her, stops her from writing. Behind, on the left, is a tower made up of civic crowns labelled GLATZ, KOSEL, NEISSE, SCHWEIDNITZ, BRIEG, GLOGAU. On the ground lies an eighth crown, SILBERBERG. Exergue: CONQUEST OF SILESIA, 1807.

The reverse was drawn by Meynier. The cities are those conquered by the French in the Prussian part of Silesia. Peace is stopping Victory from writing until Silberberg can be added to the tower. This seems to be a new twist on the Victory-writing-on-a-shield type of classical times.

BRAMSEN 640. PEACE OF TILSIT (40mm)

Obverse: NAPOLEON ALEXANDER I WILHELM III, the right-facing superimposed profiles of the three rulers. Reverse: A reclining river god,



holding in his out-stretched right hand a building on a raft, his urn labelled NIEMEN. Exergue: PEACE OF TILSIT, 1807. Signed DENON D. and DROZ F.

In a magnificent stage setting, Napoleon had a tent erected on a raft floating in the Niemen River, where the two emperors met in private. The French army was on the left bank, the Russian on the right. No authentic account is possible of what the two emperors said to each other, but Napoleon wrote to Josephine about his meeting with the emperor of Russia:

"I have met the Emperor Alexander; I am very satisfied with him; he is a very handsome, good, and young emperor; he has more spirit than is commonly thought."

Corres. 12825

The editors of the official publication of Napoleon's letters were careful to censor everything which might be found objectionable. Herold, in his *Age of Napoleon*, restored part of the quoted sentence: "and he must be satisfied with me. If he were a woman, I think I would make him my mistress."

The agreement reached between Napoleon and Alexander at Tilsit was to have far-reaching consequences. France and Russia became allies against Great Britain, and Prussia was reduced to a second-rate power by taking half her territory and population from her. The following two medals will show two results of the spoilation of Prussia. Other results of the agreement were that Russia occupied Finland and recognized France's right to Sicily and various other lands.

BRAMSEN 653. CREATION OF THE DUCHY OF WARSAW (40mm)

Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: THE ORIGINAL HONORS RESTORED. A throne on which rests a crown; in left field a sword, in the right a scepter. Signed BRENET and DENON. Exergue: OTTO III TO BOLESLAUS, YEAR 1001; NAPOLEON TO FRIEDRICH AUGUSTUS, YEAR 1807.

Again Denon has recourse to trappings from the theater to illustrate an event. The Polish lands taken from Prussia were made into the Duchy of Warsaw and given to Freidrich Augustus of Saxony, the comparison being made to a donation centuries earlier by the then emperor of Germany to the Saxon ruler of that time.



Bramsen 653



Bramsen 660

BRAMSEN 660. CREATION OF THE KINGDOM OF WESTFALIA (40mm)

Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: HE HAS FINALLY REINED HIM IN. Napoleon (?) stopping a free-running horse. Exergue: ERECTION OF THE KINGDOM OF WESTFALIA. Signed BRENET F. and DENON D.

A French catalog compares the type to the Monte Cavallo statues in Rome, but I don't see much resemblance. The wild horse was often used on the coins of Hannover and Braunschweig. Hannover and the western part of Prussia were made into a kingdom for Napoloen's younger brother, Jerome. Napoleon married Jerome to Catherine, daughter of the King of Wurtemberg. Bramsen 661 (not illustrated) is apparently a rejected design to celebrate that wedding; it is a copy of Bramsen 522 (the marriage of the prince of Baden to Stephanie Beauharnais) with the names changed. The following medal replaced it.

BRAMSEN 662. MARRIAGE OF THE KING OF WESTFALIA (40mm)



Standard obverse by Andrieu. Reverse: Two putti, one with a quiver, standing by a basket of roses and handing one to the other, seated, weaving a garland of roses, behind him a torch. On the exergual bar, ANDRIEU F. and DENON D. Exergue: J. NAPOLEON C. OF WURTEMBERG. The letter N in a glory. 1807.

The rather pleasant design for this medal was created by Prudhon, to

be engraved by Andrieu. Cupid is identified by his quiver; the other putto represents Hymen, the nuptial god, identified by the torch, symbol of weddings at least since Roman times.

Jerome already had one life behind him. Napoleon had planned to make him an admiral. After training as a midshipman Jerome had sailed to the West Indies as an officer on a French warship. The British navy was active in the area of the French colonies and the ship had retreated to New York, where Jerome jumped ship. Welcomed by Baltimore society, Jerome fell in love with Elizabeth Patterson, the heiress of a wealthy merchant there, and married her. The couple made the obligatory trip to Niagara Falls, while the French consul sent the news to the First Consul in France. Bonaparte was furious. He sent a warship from the French West Indies to retrieve Jerome, but it was captured by the British. Orders were issued to every port in Europe under French control that if the couple should turn up there *Miss Patterson* must not be allowed to disembark; Jerome was to be sent directly to Paris. Consequently, when Jerome and his pregnant wife attempted to land in Lisbon (April 1805) Betsy had to remain on the ship and took refuge in England. Jerome became an officer in Napoleon's army, docilely accepted the annulment of his marriage, and was rewarded with the Kingdom of Westfalia and the daughter of the King of Wurtemberg. Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte gave birth to a son in England and then returned to Baltimore. This son, Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, had two sons by his American wife, the younger of which was Secretary of State under Theodore Roosevelt and later Attorney General. The American line of Bonapartes is now extinct.

SIEGE COINAGE OF DEVENTER



In 1672 the City of Daventria (Deventer), under the Independent Netherlands, was besieged by the army of the Bishops of Munster. While under siege the city struck some interesting square coins. The obverse has a heraldic eagle in a circle with the date punched in below. The city's name is engraved above, while the reverse has an engraved inscription within a wreath.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

COLLECTING WORLD COINS

Ron Hermeshen, Plumas, Manitoba, Canada, NI #2243

The obvious beginning is to try to acquire an example from every coin-issuing authority. Even to limit oneself to currencies now being used around the world would require over 150 examples. However, only about 50 nations are continuously striking coins for general circulation. Of course, adding examples from the many former coin-issuing authorities would greatly expand the list. Even at this point, some collectors may wish to specialize in large coins, which are easy to see and possibly better works of art, whereas others prefer to collect smaller coins, which have a greater likelihood of being handled by the people and possibly are a closer tie to history.

The next step may be to acquire examples representing major changes in government or in the coinage itself, for example, when a monarchy changes to a republic, or a variety of monetary reforms, such as adopting the decimal system. For countries who have retained a monarchy, some collectors wish to have an example of each monarch. Of course, an example with a picture of the monarch would seem the most appropriate, but is not always possible or easy to obtain. Again, at this stage, some collectors may wish to specialize in large crowns or small minors for a variety of reasons, not the least of which might be economic. Many collectors tend to concentrate on the monarchs of a small group of countries in whose history they are more interested (and willing to research).

A third stage might be a type collection. Here is where catalogues are extremely useful, especially the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* by Krause Publications. It is much easier to keep track of coin types when they have been given a catalogue number. It would be a major task to build a type collection for every country, so most collectors would limit themselves to just a few.

The final major step is a date collection. Of course, most collectors would limit themselves to a very few countries, most often, their own. Again, a specialized catalogue for the country in question is pretty well a necessity.

However, having said all this, the scope for collecting is only limited by one's imagination. For example, topical collectors may be interested in one particular topic such as sports, nature, coats of arms, space, World War II, artists of various sorts, etc. I know of several collectors who concentrate on coins struck in their birth year. I, myself, have made a numismatic family tree where each person's birth and death were represented by a coin - both the year and location. However, sometimes a problem arises because not all countries produced coins in every year.

My final piece of advice is to collect in a way that is both enjoyable and interesting to you. Pick and choose from the ideas above or be entirely creative. Those who think coin collecting consists entirely of pushing coins into the holes of coin folders have little grasp of what numismatics is all about. Above all, the hobby should be satisfying in itself, and if it is also profitable some time in the future, that's an added bonus.

AN INTRODUCTION TO BYZANTINE COINAGE

R. R. Kutcher, Lincoln, Nebraska, NI #1289

No. 66 - THE DISMEMBERMENT OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

The fall of Constantinople, and thus the Byzantine Empire, was tumultuous and saw the rise of a number of petty states, some of which even aspired to imperial dignity. A line of Latin Emperors established themselves in Constantinople itself and that lasted from 1204 to 1261, when the restored Byzantine Empire took over. Theodore Comnenus-Lascaris, following his escape after the fall of Constantinople set up his empire in exile at the city of Nicaea. Despite immense difficulties Theodore was crowned as the true successor of the emperors of Byzantium in 1208. Michael Angelus, the cousin of the Emperors Isaac II and Alexius III, established the Despotate of Epirus after he fled from the fall of Constantinople. In 1215, he was succeeded by his half-brother Theodore Comnenus-Ducas. This Theodore conquered the Latin Kingdom of Thessalonica in 1224 and established the Empire of Thessalonica as a rival to Nicaea.

The Empire of Trebizond founded by Alexius I Comnenus, 1204-1222, played no part in the restoration of the Empire at Constantinople, but it continued a separate existence until 1461, when it was overthrown by the mighty Empire of the East. The characteristic "Asper" coinage of Trebizond did not arise until the reign of John I Auchos, who reigned from 1235 until 1238.

The Roupenian Dynasty of Cilician Armenia, 1080-1375, likewise had no part in the restoration of the Empire at Constantinople, even though Rita, sister of King Hetoum II of Armenia, was the empress of Byzantium. The Royal period of Armenia began with the coronation of prince Levon II as King Levon I on January 6, 1198. This Royal period ended when Levon V surrendered to the Mamluks on the 16th of April in 1375. The silver Tram was the coin that was common to this dynasty.

RAREST JAPANESE TRADE DOLLAR



The Boeki Gin 1874 Japanese Trade Dollar is one of the greatest rarities of the early Meiji era. The coin is illustrated here.

(Submitted by R. R. Kutcher)

BARKER ON MONEY TROUBLES IN OTTOMAN SYRIA AND EGYPT

In carrying out the instructions with which he was charged, Mr. Barker found great difficulty in regard to the transmission of funds to the different agents he employed, on account of the nature of the monetary medium in use. He had constantly occasion to notice in his letters the publication by the Government of the value of coins above the currency, which rendered the transmission of specie from one town of Syria to another very unsettled and perplexing, and occasioned loss and delay. For instance, the forced value at Aleppo of coins did not correspond with that at Latakia, where the Pachas, who were frequently in open rebellion to the Porte (the Ottoman government at Constantinople, today called Istanbul), would not accept the Porte's "publication". Then again, between Latakia and Tripoli the rival Pachas had an interest in "publishing" on their own account, and keeping the rate of the currency in their favour. All this rendered monetary transactions extremely difficult and dilatory, independent of the great number of different sorts of coins and their fluctuating value.

Paper money has never been in circulation in Syria, at any period.

The Porte has been for a century past in the habit of trying to keep the value of coins to correspond with the depreciation in the intrinsic value of the coins themselves (by the introduction of more copper into the silver). Thus a silver coin which we now possess, struck 150 years ago, and current then for thirty "paras", contains as much silver as a dollar now worth thirty "piasters",----this being the depreciation from the original value by 1,200 paras in 150 years; a ration of forty to one. (*)

This ruinous system was put to an end soon after the Crimean War, when the paper-money was called in, the coinage reformed, and the value of coins kept at a fixed rate. But in the provinces much trouble still attends the circulation of old coins and their fluctuating value. (+)

* There are forty paras in one piaster.

+ In a letter of the 11th May, 1802, Mr. Barker says the Talleree, or Spanish dollar, was worth 3 1/4 piasters, and the Venetian sequin was worth 7 1/2 piasters. The dollar is now worth 30 piasters.

Taken from pp. 60-62 of Edward B. Barker's *Syria and Egypt Under the Last Five Sultans of Turkey* 2 volumes. (Reprint New York: Arno Press 1973)

(Submitted by R. J. Hébert)

CUTE ANIMALS: For Wildlife Preservation, Hungary issued two 1985 100 Forint copper-nickel coins picturing wild animals. However, the depictions of the otter and a wild cat are more cute than wild looking.

BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

Catalogo General de las Monedas Espanolas, Vol. VI: ACUNACIONES DE LA CASA DE BORBON: DE FELIPE V A ISABEL II. By Jesus Vico Monteoliva and Fernando P. Segarra. Published by Editorial Vico-Segarra, Madrid, 1985. Spanish with most material translated into English, 476 pages, profusely illustrated. Available from Dale Seppa, 103 Sixth Avenue N, Virginia, MN 55792. Price is \$40.00 plus postage.

This volume is the second to appear in a series (issued out of sequence) which treats the coinage of Spain and its possessions from pre-Roman times to the present day. "Issues of the House of Bourbon" is a necessity for Iberian readers and is also of interest to readers on both of the American continents. Bilingual, it spans a crucial historical period in the formation of the New World nations: 1700 to 1868. Clearly, it was during these times that the American colonies--whether possessions of Spain, France or Britain--experienced the transformation into nationhood which, with only minor modifications, still prevails in the Western Hemisphere.

There are eight major chapter divisions, encompassing the reigns of seven Spanish monarchs and the Napoleonic Domination of 1808-1814. This latter period, of course, not only saw enormous political upheaval in the Old World, but was the immediate occasion for the Wars of Liberation within the Spanish speaking Latin American colonies. The lengthy, but highly readable, historical texts which initiate each of these eight subdivisions may ultimately be of even more value than the listings of actual coinage. For example, rarely does a reader find such a succinct explanation for the War of Spanish Succession, which affected all of Europe, and thus the New World as well. Its principal net effect was to finalize the age of discovery and colonization initiated by the *Reyes Catolicos* Ferdinand and Isabela and carried to fruition by the Austrian Hapsburg Emperors. First and foremost, it implanted the last absolute dynasty in Spain and its dominions, that of the Bourbon kings. This process would culminate in the total alienation of the Spanish colonies from the Peninsula, although decolonization was to be over a century in the making. Napoleon's eventual downfall coincided with the movement toward constitutionalism in Spain and Latin America--seen in both spheres as a throwing off of the French yoke, that of the hated *afrancesados*.

The coins themselves, priced in three grades, are broken down by ruler, metal, mint, and date of issue, with explanations, where applicable, in Spanish and English. A serious attempt has been made to include all issues struck under Spanish sovereignty, even when effected by "insurgent organizations." Thus, Mexican coinage of the *Junta Suprema de America* or the *Consejo Supremo Nacional* is included, as is that of Sombrerete and Zacatecas. By the same token, issues of insurgent Oaxaca, Tierras Calientes, and Morelos are not. This model is followed faithfully for other regions as well, such as in the case of Santa Marta versus Cartagena de Indias in present-day Colombia. Careful mention of these distinctions is always made, and all types included are clearly illustrated, a definite advantage over many traditional, more specialized works.

Certainly, not everyone will agree with every division of this nature; the times themselves, with their divided and changing loyalties, do not permit absolute exactness here.

They are of immense value, however, in that they represent a basically European viewpoint, and in that clear divisions have been defined by authors with detailed knowledge of the often fluid situations which obtained during the respective chronological periods. In the opinion of this reviewer, this will facilitate a more critical approach to works on New World "Obsidional" coinage.

Also included are many valuable charts and tables on terminology and grading (in eight languages!), issuing mints and mintmark variations, and excellent indices, along with a detailed bibliography. The glossy, high quality, hardcover octavo plus format is superb. In fact, the only fault this reviewer can find with the work is that some of the translations are too literal, i.e., the Spanish *actual* does not mean "real," but rather "current" or "present day." Likewise, *prueba* usually means "pattern" rather than "proof," although it can mean either or both. But in such a definitive work, in what promises to be the definitive series on one of the world's most lengthy, complex coinages, such occasional flaws are truly trifling. Indeed, in terms of historical or numismatic method, *Acunaciones de la Casa de Borbon* is a must for every serious numismatist.

Reviewed by David B. Fiero

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Fisher's Ding. By George A. Fisher, Jr. First Edition, 1990. 251 pages, 8 1/2" by 11", card covers. Illustrated, commentaries in English, Schjoth cross-references, and values. Available from Bob Reis ("Anything Anywhere"), P.O. Box 82816, Portland, OR 97282. Price is \$30.00 plus \$2.00 postage in the United States. Others write for postage rates.

It should be stated at the onset that this is a book about Chinese coins. The title was derived by combining the author's name with another Chinese coin specialist of an earlier period: Ding Fubao. The latter's work is better known to collectors as *Ting Fu Pao*, under the Wade-Giles spelling. It is adapted from the classic reference *Dynastic Old Coins Illustrated and Described*. The plates of rubbings are reproduced from that book.

Fisher's Ding opens with an index reflecting Chinese money from the earliest cowries, spades, and knives, through the myriad of round cast coins through the ages, to and including the recent Ch'ing Dynasty. This is followed by a lengthy, "chatty," informative introduction to the use of the book.

A highlight of the book is that the author has added many useful comments to the original *Ting Fu Pao* plates, in many cases translating the original Mandarin into English. Many plates bear older valuations of the coins in Chinese Republican dollars of about the year 1940. One will find it amusing to reflect on these.

One section of the book contains a cross-reference of the "Ding" numbers relative to those in Schjoth's *Chinese Currency*. This includes a current price guide in U.S. dollars on most of them.

Among other interesting features of the book is a guide to the composition and phonetic pronunciation of the Manchu characters of major mint marks. Another table lists all of the Ch'ing Dynasty Manchu mint marks by emperor.

Some readers may balk at the use of the Pinyin form throughout, having been accustomed to the Wade-Giles romanization of characters and place names. It seems that the latter form has remained the language of collectors to date. Pinyin to Wade-Giles conversion tables are provided to ease this transition.

In summary, collectors using the original *Ting Fu Pao* reference along with Schjoth's *Chinese Currency* should find this to be a more complete and very useful companion work.

Reviewed by Lester D. Snell

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***Coin World Almanac, Sixth Edition.* By the editors of *Coin World*. Published by Amos Press, Sidney, Ohio, 1990. 752 pages, 5 1/4" by 8 1/4", hardcover and softcover editions. Available from *Coin World*, Box 150, Sidney, OH 45365. Price is \$15.95 postpaid for the soft cover edition and \$29.95 postpaid for the hardcover edition.**

The latest edition of *Coin World Almanac* features a new chapter on U.S. commemorative coinage. Additionally, the chapter on grading has been updated to include information on the spectacular growth of third-party grading services and an exploration of the emerging field of computerized grading. The index at the end of the volume offers more than 5,000 points of entry.

The book's coverage is best illustrated by examining the titles of its 23 chapters. They are as follows: Review of the News 1987-1990; Numismatics and Washington; Numismatics and the Law; The Treasury; The United States Mint; Bureau of Engraving and Printing; The Federal Reserve; U.S. paper Money; U.S. Coins; Commemoratives; Errors; A Numismatic Chronology; World Coins; Precious Metals; Bullion Coins; Grading; Coins as Investments; Rarities; Potpourri; Museums; Organizations, Books and Periodicals; and Numismatic Terms.

While much of the book covers numismatics in the United States, many chapters contain information on world numismatics, making the book worthwhile for collectors everywhere. Listings of books and periodicals, numismatic organizations and museums, in addition to data on precious metals, world coins, grading, and numismatic chronologies of various continents, are of particular interest to collectors of world coins.

The latest edition of *Coin World Almanac* is a useful reference for all collectors and is an ideal reference for coin club libraries.

Reviewed by Jerry Remick

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MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Rajesh K. Lodha, Robinson Road, P. O. Box #0476, Singapore 9009:
Wanted to exchange information and coins of INDIA/NEPAL/TIBET/CHINA.
Those who are interested, please contact at the above address.

Ron Herneshen, Box 130, Plumas, MB Canada ROJ 1P0: Wanted for numismatic family tree: Russia 1876 5k.(Y12), 3k.(Y11), or 2k.(Y10).
Write first, as only one needed. Will pay SCWC prices.

Frank Clark, P. O. Box 117060, Carrollton, Texas 75011-7060: WANTED to buy or borrow the following auction catalogs — RARCOA Saslow Auction of January, 1969 and the Lester Merkin Auction of February, 1971.

Gerald Easton, 9503 N.E. 3rd St., Vancouver, WA 98664: This is a request for information on a coin of Costa Rica.

There was a report of a Costa Rica 1961 2 Colon, with large ships *and* 5 stars in the shield, in WCN updates a couple of years ago. According to KM catalog (1990 Ed.), the "common" variety is the small ships, 7 stars type.

My experience with this coin indicates that only one variety exists, that being the 5 star type. I have been unable to find anyone who has ever seen or even heard of a 7 star type 1961 date. A letter to Lauren Benson, Inc. requesting information yielded nothing. They denied any knowledge of the 7 star type. A further letter to Krause Publications was without success. Mr. Fred Borgmann replied he was certain that their listing was correct.

Would any NI member having information on a 1961 2 Colones with 7 stars in the shield, please write to me. I would be most pleased to purchase such a coin if one should exist.

John L. Pieratt, 2635 S. Hydraulic, 32C, Wichita, KS 67216: WANTING to meet other collectors of French Indo China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Annam, Tonkin to exchange information on postcards, coins, medals, tokens, books, etc. Also would like to find out on Indo China if there is more than four date collectors of crowns, minors in the whole world. Also is there more than five Vietnam cash coin collectors in the United States or more than twenty-five in the whole world.

NI ATTRIBUTION SERVICE: The NI Attribution Service is once again accepting items for attribution. Please refer to page 201 of the September issue for new rules regarding items sent in, or write to the Chairman of the Attribution Service at the regular Dallas address.

COIN THOUGHTS - III - *David G. Briggs, NI #1444*

For its size and weight, there is nothing the fingers can touch that provides so strong a sense of the past as a coin, whether it be a widow's mite or a piece of eight, whether of bronze or gold, or whether the good or evil it purchased are in balance.